

# Party Responses to Request for a Public Hearing

(5) Pages

## ATHENA CONSTRUCTION

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**From:** Brad Schlotterer [mailto:Brad.Schlotterer@keanmiller.com]  
**Sent:** Mon 12/4/2006 10:17 PM  
**To:** Turrell Morgan  
**Subject:** NTSB Hearing

Morgan,

Thank you for the information you provided to me regarding the disassembly of the winch scheduled for Wednesday. As you can see from the email I sent to all counsel, Athena will follow the NTSB's lead on who attends the disassembly.

I have had several discussions with the Representatives (Drake Stansbury and Dana Lee) of Athena regarding the necessity of a public hearing. Athena sees no benefit to come from a public hearing given the fact that all parties have cooperated in the investigation, all requested documents have been exchanged, and all requested depositions of witnesses and related individuals have been completed. It seems that a public hearing would simply be a rehash of all the same information gathered through the NTSB's investigation and would be a waste of time.

Based on the foregoing, it is Athena's position that no public hearing is necessary given the extensive investigation performed by the NTSB over the past 2 months.

We look forward to hearing the NTSB's thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Brad Schlotterer  
Attorney for Athena Construction

Bradley J. Schlotterer  
Partner  
Kean Miller Hawthorne D'Armond McCowan & Jarman, LLP  
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**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Captain Turrell,

Re my voice mail, CG at this time does not see a need for a public hearing.

However, one issue to consider might be the desires of the families involved and whether they would desire such a hearing.

Thank you

Kindest Regards,

Andy, SIO, CG MSU Morgan City

**CHEVRON NORTH AMERICA**

Thank you for your November 20, 2006 e-mail and letter and the invitation therein for Chevron to express its views on the possibility of the NTSB conducting a public hearing in connection with the October 12, 2006 incident that is the subject of your investigation. At this time, Chevron does not believe such a public hearing is warranted.

Sincerely,

Kerry Mire  
Chevron USA Production Company

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)**

Morgan

For NOAA, we have no needs or issues at this time that requires a request from us for a public hearing.

r/

Tim Osborn  
NOAA

## **LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

In response to your request, we do not think that a public hearing is necessary in this matter; however, we have no objection and plan to fully cooperate if the NTSB decides a hearing is necessary.

James M. Mergist, P. E.  
Assistant Director of Pipelines  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation  
Pipeline Division  
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## **CENTRAL BOAT RENTALS**

Dear Morgan:

Thanks for visiting with me this afternoon concerning the need of a Public Hearing. Central Boat Rentals, Inc. does not feel a public hearing is necessary. As per our conversation, please let me or Gary Gaudet know when you would like to schedule an interview with Rodney Lewis.

Thanks again for conducting such an organized investigation.  
Michael Patterson  
Central Boat Rentals, Inc.



November 29, 2006

Mr. Morgan Turrell  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Office of Marine Safety  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East  
Washington, DC 20594

Subject: Public Hearing concerning accident DCA07MM001 - October 12, 2006  
Barge Athena 106 fire

Dear Mr. Turrell:

Gulfport Energy Corporation has received your letter of November 20, 2006, regarding a public hearing concerning the subject accident. In our view, a public hearing is not necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian Osborn", is written over a solid black rectangular redaction box.

Brian Osborn